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Name.....

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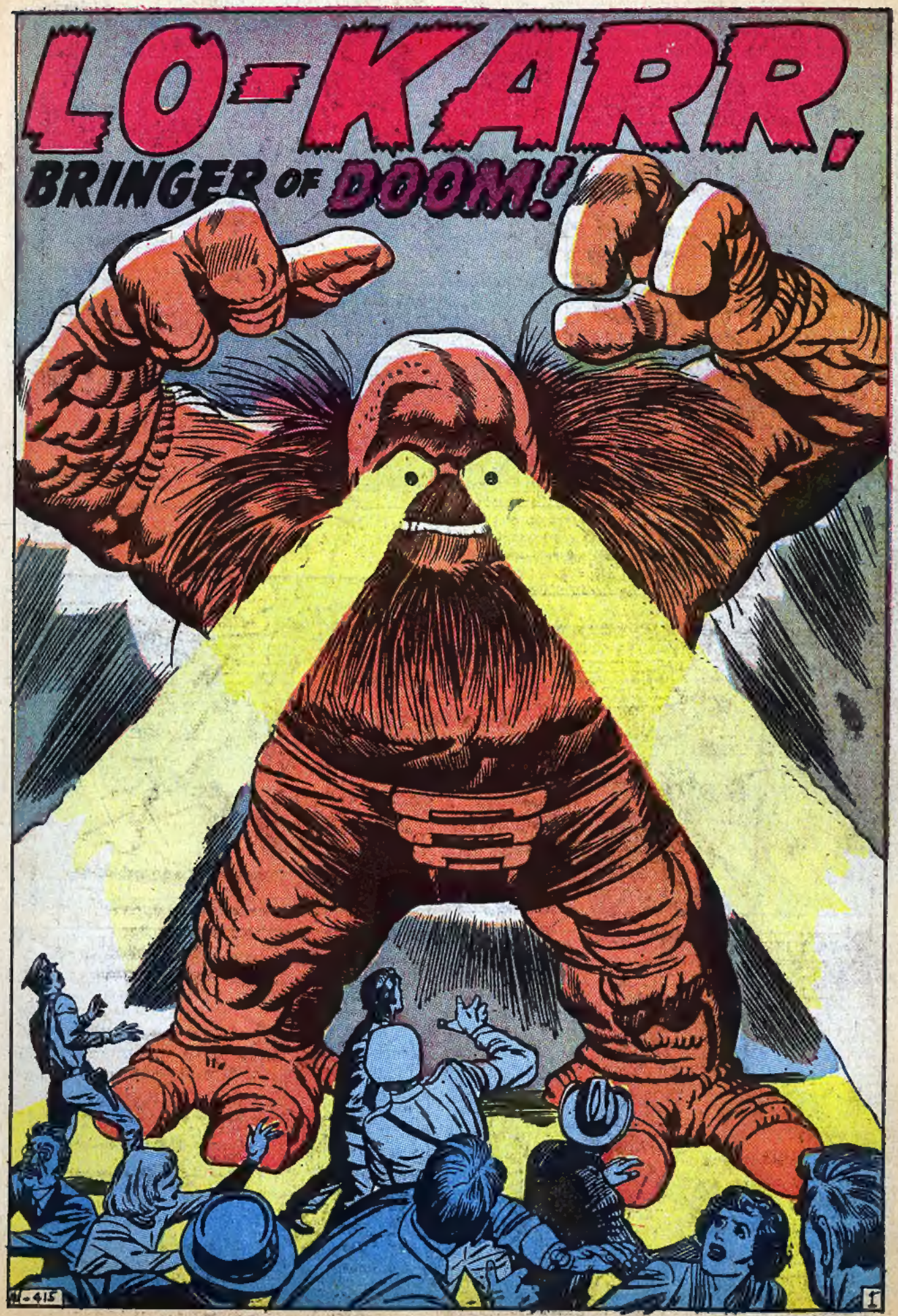
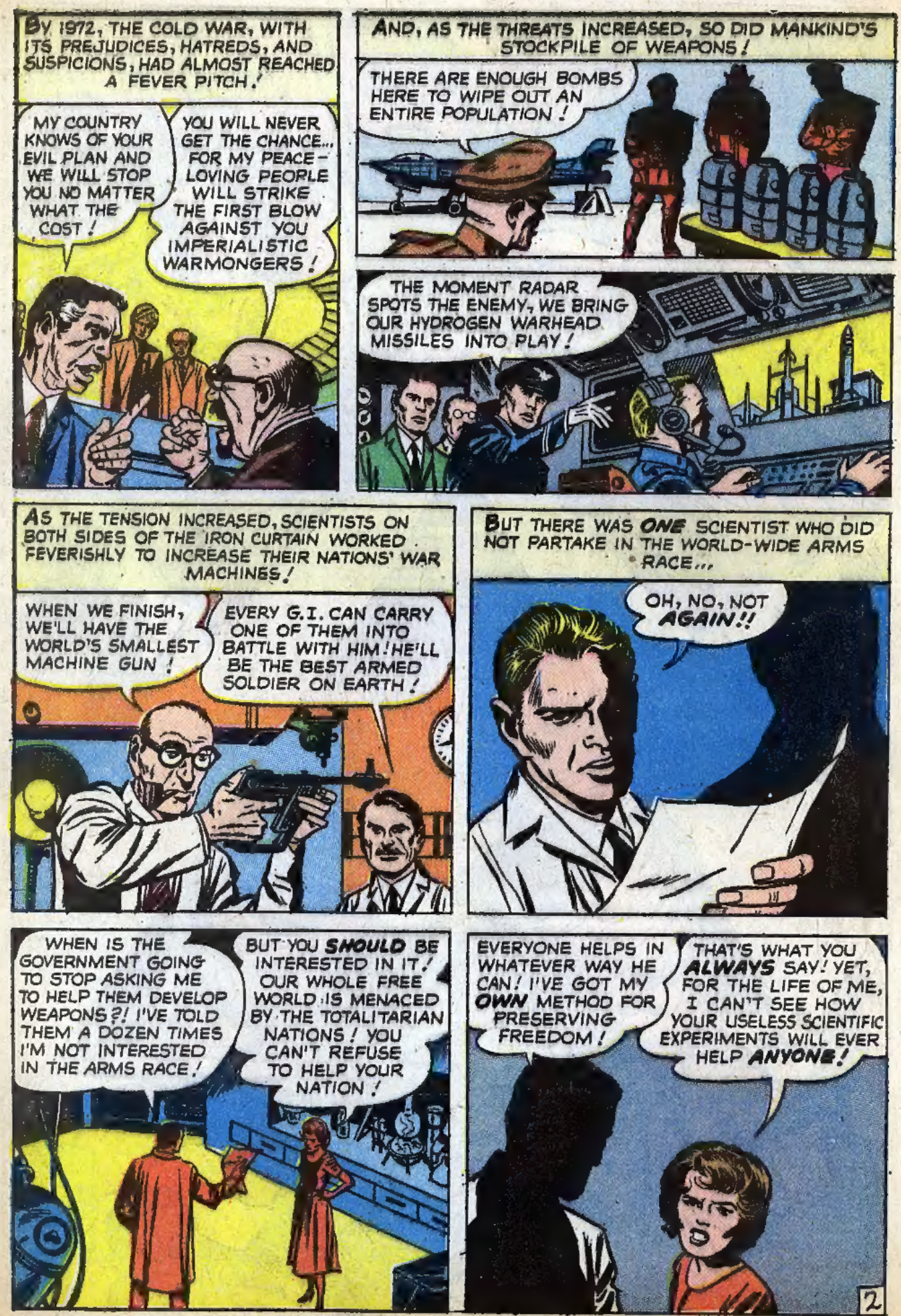
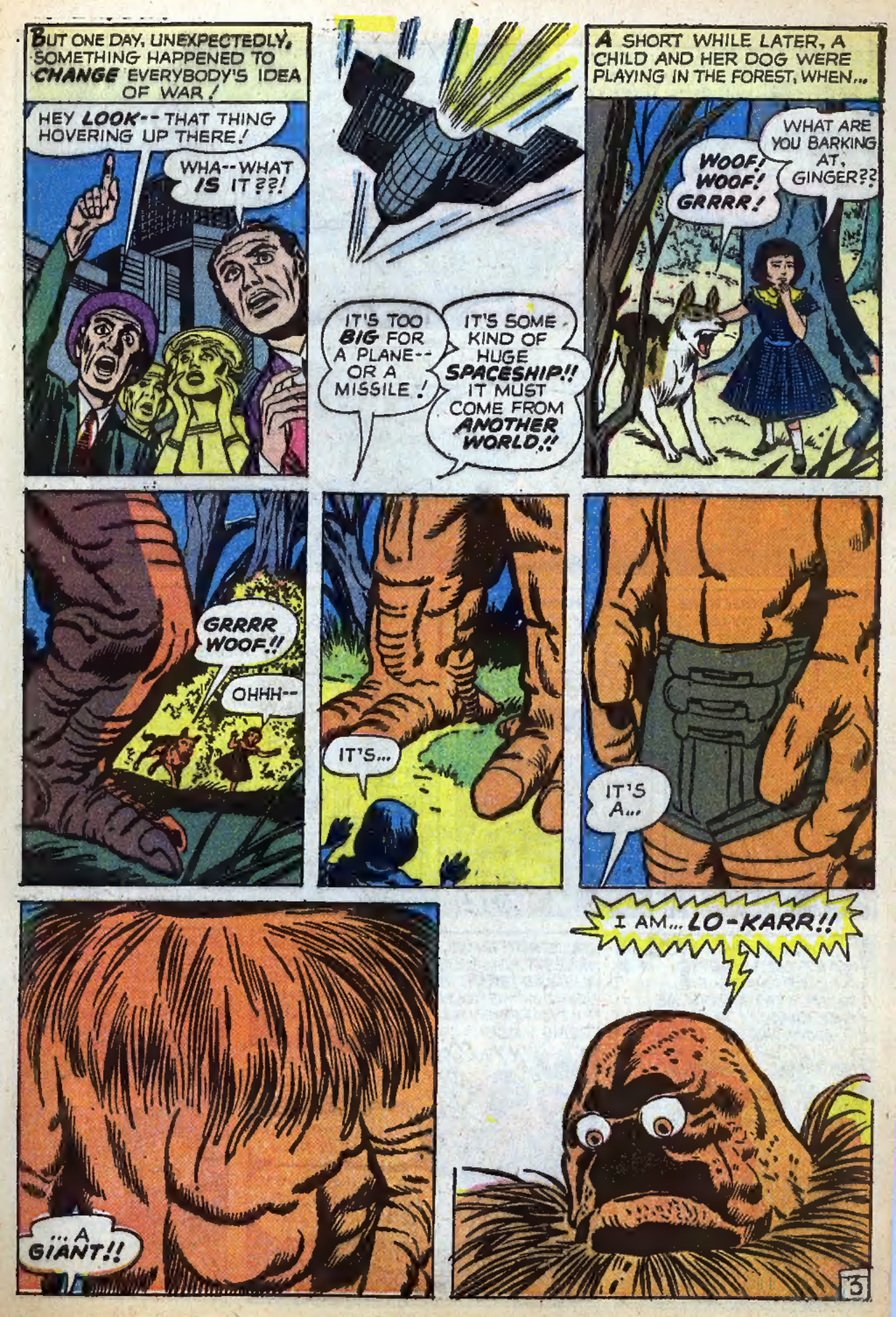
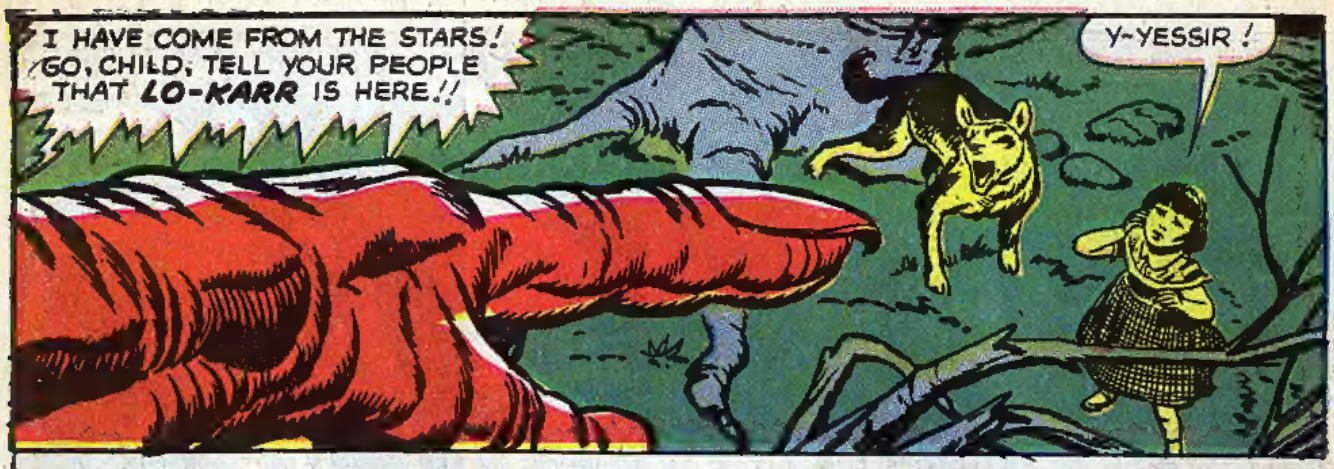
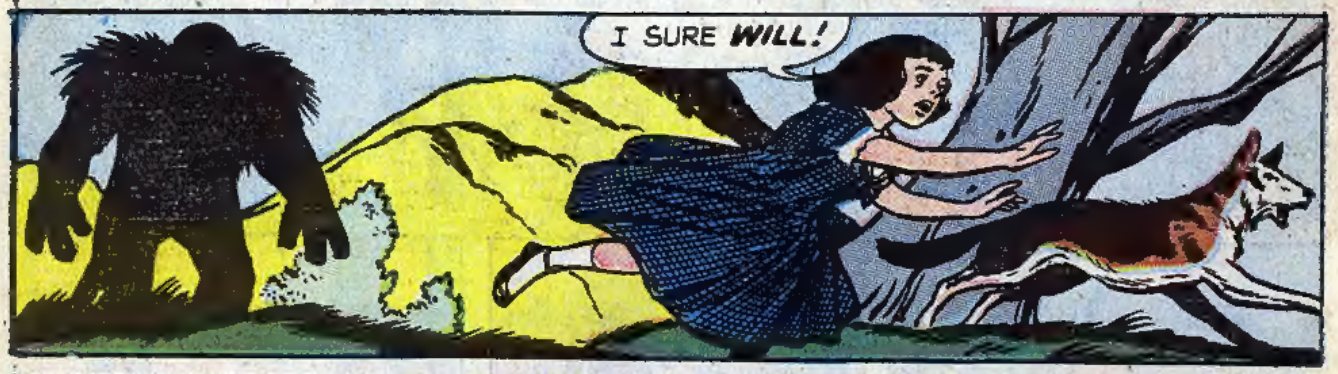

LO-KARR,
BRINGER OF DOOM!
H-415
1


BY 1972, THE COLD WAR, WITH ITS PREJUDICES, HATREDS, AND SUSPICIONS, HAD ALMOST REACHED A FEVER PITCH!
MY COUNTRY KNOWS OF YOUR EVIL PLAN AND WE WILL STOP YOU NO MATTER WHAT THE COST!
YOU WILL NEVER GET THE CHANCE... FOR MY PEACE-LOVING PEOPLE WILL STRIKE THE FIRST BLOW AGAINST YOU IMPERIALISTIC WARMONGERS!
AND, AS THE THREATS INCREASED, SO DID MANKIND'S STOCKPILE OF WEAPONS!
THERE ARE ENOUGH BOMBS HERE TO WIPE OUT AN ENTIRE POPULATION!
THE MOMENT RADAR SPOTS THE ENEMY, WE BRING OUR HYDROGEN WARHEAD MISSILES INTO PLAY!
AS THE TENSION INCREASED, SCIENTISTS ON BOTH SIDES OF THE IRON CURTAIN WORKED FEVERISHLY TO INCREASE THEIR NATIONS' WAR MACHINES!
WHEN WE FINISH, WE'LL HAVE THE WORLD'S SMALLEST MACHINE GUN!
EVERY G.I. CAN CARRY ONE OF THEM INTO BATTLE WITH HIM! HE'LL BE THE BEST ARMED SOLDIER ON EARTH!
BUT THERE WAS ONE SCIENTIST WHO DID NOT PARTAKE IN THE WORLD-WIDE ARMS RACE...
OH, NO, NOT AGAIN!!
WHEN IS THE GOVERNMENT GOING TO STOP ASKING ME TO HELP THEM DEVELOP WEAPONS?! I'VE TOLD THEM A DOZEN TIMES I'M NOT INTERESTED IN THE ARMS RACE!
BUT YOU SHOULD BE INTERESTED IN IT! OUR WHOLE FREE WORLD IS MENACED BY THE TOTALITARIAN NATIONS! YOU CAN'T REFUSE TO HELP YOUR NATION!
EVERYONE HELPS IN WHATEVER WAY HE CAN! I'VE GOT MY OWN METHOD FOR PRESERVING FREEDOM!
THAT'S WHAT YOU ALWAYS SAY! YET, FOR THE LIFE OF ME, I CAN'T SEE HOW YOUR USELESS SCIENTIFIC EXPERIMENTS WILL EVER HELP ANYONE!
2

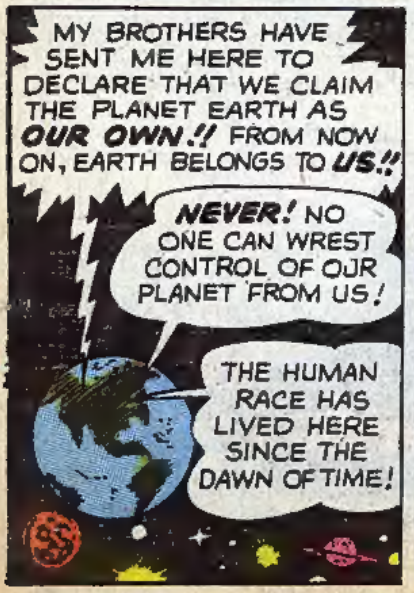

BUT ONE DAY, UNEXPECTEDLY, SOMETHING HAPPENED TO CHANGE EVERYBODY'S IDEA OF WAR!
HEY LOOK-- THAT THING HOVERING UP THERE!
WHA--WHAT IS IT??!
IT'S TOO BIG FOR A PLANE-- OR A MISSILE!
IT'S SOME KIND OF HUGE SPACESHIP!! IT MUST COME FROM ANOTHER WORLD!!
A SHORT WHILE LATER, A CHILD AND HER DOG WERE PLAYING IN THE FOREST, WHEN...
WOOF! WOOF! GRRRR!
WHAT ARE YOU BARKING AT, GINGER??
GRRRR WOOF!!
OHHH--
IT'S...
IT'S A...
I AM... LO-KARR!!
...A GIANT!!
3



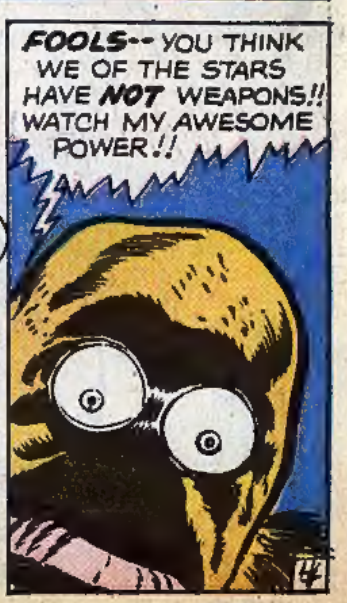


WITHIN HOURS, THE ENTIRE WORLD KNEW OF LO-KARR!

SOON GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS, REPORTERS, CURIOUSITY SEEKERS--ALL CAME TO BEHOLD THE MIGHTY, TOWERING FORM OF THE ALIEN MONSTER!


MY BROTHERS HAVE SENT ME HERE TO DECLARE THAT WE CLAIM THE PLANET EARTH AS OUR OWN!! FROM NOW ON, EARTH BELONGS TO US!!
NEVER! NO ONE CAN WREST CONTROL OF OUR PLANET FROM US!
THE HUMAN RACE HAS LIVED HERE SINCE THE DAWN OF TIME!

I DID NOT TRAVEL A HUNDRED MILLION MILES TO DISCUSS YOUR HISTORY! IT IS YOUR FUTURE I SPEAK OF! MY BROTHERS ARE COMING TO SEIZE EARTH! WHEN THEY ARRIVE, YOU MUST OFFER NO RESISTANCE!
NO! WE WILL NEVER GIVE UP OUR WORLD!
WE'LL FIGHT TO THE LAST MAN!
WE HAVE MIGHTY WEAPONS!! WE'LL DEFEAT YOU!!



BEHOLD THE BEAM OF ENERGY WHICH MY EYES HURL AT YOUR FOREST!
EVERY ONE OF THE TREES THAT THE BEAM TOUCHED HAS BEEN MELTED!!
... AND THAT WAS BUT A SAMPLE OF OUR MIGHT! IF MY KINSMEN MEET ANY OPPOSITION WHEN THEY ARRIVE HERE...
THEY WILL STORM YOUR CITIES... TOPPLE YOUR BUILDINGS... CRUSH YOUR WEAPONS... AND REDUCE YOUR CIVILIZATION TO RUBBLE!!
THAT, EARTHLINGS, SHALL BE THE PRICE OF RESISTANCE! THINK ON IT... CAREFULLY!
NOW MY MISSION IS DONE! I RETURN TO THE STARS! I KNOW NOT WHEN THE OTHERS WILL COME--BUT COME THEY SHALL! SO BEWARE, EARTHLINGS... BEWARE...
H-HE'S TURNING! HE'S GOING!!
YES, BUT HE'S LEAVING US WITH THE GREATEST PERIL WE'VE EVER FACED!!
MINUTES LATER, MILLIONS OF EYES WATCHED THE HUGE ALIEN SPACESHIP BLAST OFF FROM EARTH!
WHAT WILL WE DO WHEN THE OTHERS ATTACK US?
WELL, ONE THING'S CERTAIN! WE'RE NOT GOING TO GIVE UP A MILLION YEARS OF CIVILIZATION WITHOUT A FIGHT!
5

WE'LL NEVER SURRENDER! THAT WAS THE ATTITUDE OF ALL MANKIND! BUT THE ENEMY WE FACED WAS SO POWERFUL, THERE WAS ONLY ONE WAY TO FIGHT HIM!
WE MUST FORGET ALL OUR SQUABBLES AND RIVALRIES!
I AGREE! WE MUST JOIN FORCES! WE MUST WORK TOGETHER TO PROTECT EARTH AGAINST OUR COMMON ENEMY!
AND SO THE COLD WAR BETWEEN EAST AND WEST WAS ENDED!!
IT'S GOOD TO HAVE YOU FLYING WITH ME, IVAN!
I FEEL THE SAME WAY, YANKEE! I WISH WE HAD BECOME FRIENDS MUCH SOONER!
AFTER ALL THESE YEARS, THERE IS PEACE ON EARTH AND BROTHERHOOD AMONG MEN! BUT IT CAN'T LAST! WHEN THE ALIENS COME, EITHER THEY'LL DESTROY US, OR WE'LL DEFEAT THEM AND THEN GO BACK TO FIGHTING AMONG OURSELVES!
I WOULDN'T WORRY TOO MUCH ABOUT IT! I THINK THAT THINGS ARE GOING TO REMAIN JUST AS THEY ARE FOR A LONG, LONG TIME!
B-BUT WHY DO YOU SAY THAT? WHAT MAKES YOU THINK SO?
OH, JUST CALL IT A HUNCH OF MINE...!
AND THAT EVENING, THE YOUNG SCIENTIST LEFT HIS HOUSE AND WENT TO A REMOTE CAVE...
MANKIND WILL REMAIN UNITED, WAITING FOR THE ALIEN INVASION--FOR AN INVASION THAT WILL NEVER COME!
6
FROM THE CAVE, HE DRAGGED A HUGE OBJECT TO A NEARBY CLIFF AND SLOWLY DROPPED IT INTO THE SEA!
AND FOR THEIR OWN SAKE, THE WORLD SHALL NEVER KNOW THE TRUTH!
THEY SHALL NEVER KNOW THAT THE ALIEN SPACESHIP WAS JUST A PICTURE PROJECTED INTO THE SKY... AND THAT THE MIGHTY LO-KARR WAS MERELY A GIANT ROBOT--WHICH I CONTROLLED!
AND SO, GOODBYE, LO-KARR ...YOU HAVE SERVED YOUR PURPOSE... YOU HAVE UNITED MANKIND!
THE END

YOU'VE NEVER READ A COMIC LIKE "THE FANTASTIC FOUR"! GET YOUR SPINE-TINGLING COPY TODAY!

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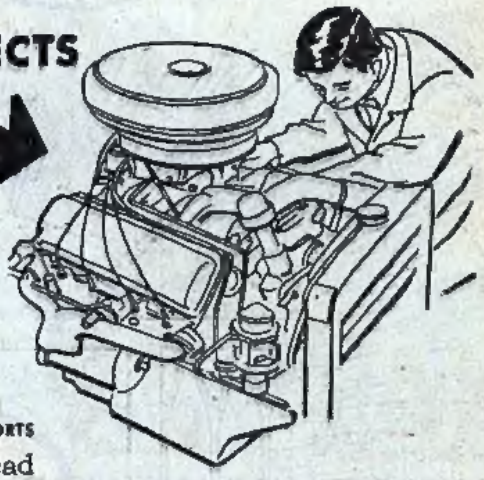
A quick new way to get into Auto Mechanics

30 JOB EXPERIENCE PROJECTS

...to help you bridge the gap between theory and practice—to lead you from lessons to engines in easy stages



"Good Auto Industry Jobs Go Begging"

—A FAMOUS CHICAGO NEWSPAPER REPORTS

If you are worried about a layoff, low pay, or dim prospects, read this information printed in a Chicago newspaper: "Unemployment may be a national problem, but the troubles in segments of the auto industry are exactly the opposite. Jobs are going begging. Good jobs. Ones paying well and offering better-than-expected freedom from layoffs. There are perhaps 300,000 openings to be filled in cities and towns across the country..."

Learn by practicing at home

A well-known auto executive says that 250,000 more auto mechanics are needed. "We know of one manufacturer alone who needs nearly 60,000 mechanics for its dealerships," he adds. Obviously, *now* is the time to train for a better job, high pay, steady work! Train at home in spare time for a bright future as an auto mechanic. Learn by practicing the easy CTI way. It's fast too.

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As part of its practical training program, CTI sends you 30 Job Experience Projects. These exclusive projects make it easy for you to make the transition from lessons to repairs. You learn by practicing, gain skill in the use of tools and test instruments, acquire useful experience that builds your confidence. CTI shop projects do away with low-pay apprenticeship—get you into the top pay bracket much more quickly.

Go in business—Earn more money

America needs 25,000 more auto repair shops! There are opportunities in almost any community to go in business for yourself, gain independence, earn more money than ever. Many CTI graduates own their shops—and most of them started in their back yards.

Diesel or Body-Fender instruction

Diesel or Body-Fender instruction is provided by CTI in addition to the complete course in Auto Mechanics. No extra charge for this training. Only CTI offers you this generous choice.

So practical that many earn cash soon after they start

Many CTI students begin fixing cars after a few lessons. They earn extra money—which helps pay tuition, buys extra equipment. At the same time, these students become skillful and experienced in the use of tools and instruments. All this is a result of CTI's *practical* home study lessons. And now, in addition, you get 30 Job Experience Projects.

Proof that CTI training works

Letters from students prove value of CTI training. Read these unsolicited testimonials: "Am now a senior auto mechanic. Made $800 during training." —*Ronald Wharton, Md.* "Started a small business in my garage. Now have two part-time helpers."—*John Reed, Cal.* "Am proud I finished course. Have two job offers."—*Barden Vance, Ind.* "Am working as a mechanic and earn twice what I used to. Made $25 a week as I trained."—*Jerome Slowik, Ill.* "Have three job offers. Made $170 as a student." —*Willie Cooper, Fla.* "Have started my own tune-up and brake shop. Am earning about $50 a week more than before." —*G. Guntz, Cal.* You can do as well.

First get the facts—Then decide

Imagine—over 250,000 jobs waiting for auto mechanics! Isn't it worth your while to look into your opportunities? Just mail coupon. No obligation.

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MISTER GREGORY AND THE GHOST!

EVER WANTED TO ENTER A *HAUNTED* HOUSE? WELL, HERE'S YOUR CHANCE! JUST FOLLOW US AND WE'LL LEAD YOU INTO THE EERIE, FRIGHTENING WORLD OF THE SUPERNATURAL... A WORLD OF UNEARTHLY NOISES, STRANGE MOVEMENTS, AND SOMETHING MORE... YES, SOMETHING MORE!

HIS NAME WAS LUCIUS P. GREGORY, AND THOUGH HE NEVER BROKE THE LAW, HE SURE BENT IT A'PLENTY!

MORE OF MY HOUSES GOING UP! I'M THE RICHEST HOME BUILDER IN THE STATE, AND *WHY?* BECAUSE I'M *UNSCRUPULOUS!*

YOU ASK HOW A HOME BUILDER CAN BE UNSCRUPULOUS? SIMPLE! HE CAN USE INFERIOR MATERIALS, HIRE UNSKILLED LABOR, AND CHARGE HIGH PRICES FOR HIS SHODDY RESULTS!

THAT HOUSE YOU SOLD ME--NONE OF THE PLUMBING WORKS!

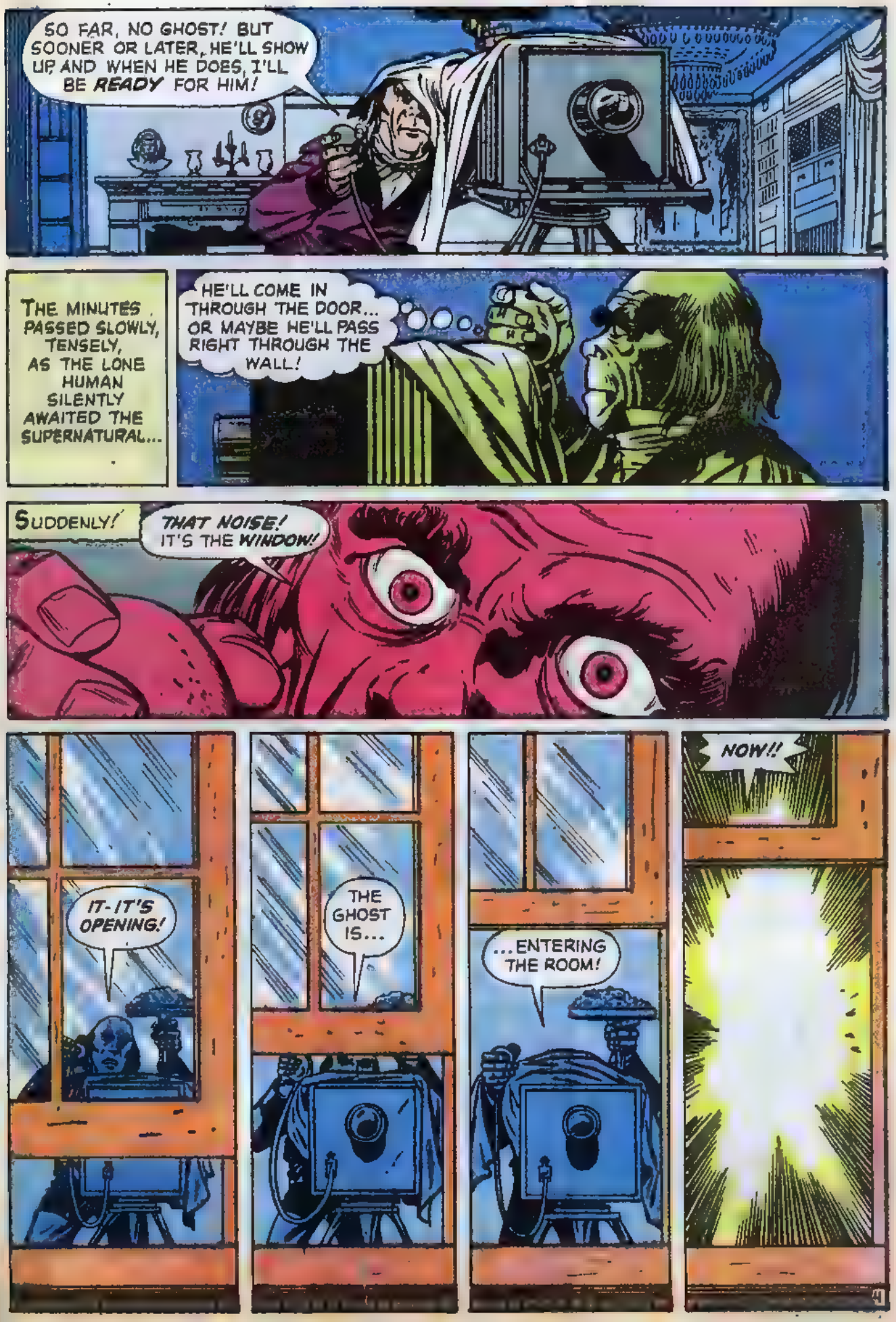
SO? YOU WERE STUPID ENOUGH TO BUY THE HOUSE! NOW SUFFER!

THE CEILINGS ARE CRACKING, THE WALLS ARE SHAKING! I SHALL SUE YOU, GREGORY!

WITH THE LAWYERS I HAVE, YOU CAN'T SCARE ME!

HOWEVER, CAME THE DAY THAT MR. GREGORY WANTED A HOUSE FOR HIMSELF...
WE'RE SPENDING A LOT OF MONEY, MR. GREGORY!
THAT'S ALL RIGHT! I DON'T CARE ABOUT THE COST! JUST SO THE HOUSE IS BIG AND WELL BUILT; NOT LIKE THE JUNK I PUT UP!
FINALLY, THE HOUSE WAS FINISHED!
IT'S A BEAUTIFUL HOME!
NATURALLY! I'LL MOVE IN NEXT WEEK!
BUT THAT EVENING, ONE OF THE CURIOUS YOUNGSTERS IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD WAS EXAMINING THE NEW HOUSE, WHEN...
OHH!!
LEMME OUTA THERE!
AND, NOT LONG AFTERWARDS...
IT'S HAUNTED?
THAT'S WHAT THE BOY TOLD THE WHOLE TOWN! HE SAID HE WAS THERE LAST NIGHT AND HEARD WEIRD NOISES AND SAW THINGS MOVING!
BUT THERE'S NO SUCH THING AS A GHOST! THE BOY MUST BE LYING!
I DON'T KNOW...
WELL, I DO KNOW! AND TO PROVE THERE ARE NO GHOSTS, I'LL GO THERE TONIGHT AND LOOK AROUND FOR MYSELF!

WHAT NONSENSE! IMAGINE ANYBODY IN THIS DAY AND AGE STILL BELIEVING IN GHOSTS!
BUT, ON THE OTHER HAND, MAYBE THERE--I MEAN, IS IT POSSIBLE--?
WHAT AM I THINKING? OF COURSE IT'S NOT POSSIBLE!
HERE--I'LL PROVE THERE ARE NO SUPERNATURAL BEINGS INSIDE! I'LL JUST OPEN THE DOOR AND...
...WALK RIGHT IN!
AIEOW
THAT SHRIEK! THAT UNEARTHLY SHRIEK!
IT IS HAUNTED! IT IS!
...IT TOOK GREGORY SEVERAL HOURS TO CALM DOWN! BUT WHEN HE HAD, ANGER WELLED WITHIN HIM...
I SPENT A FORTUNE BUILDING THAT HOUSE AND I'M NOT GOING TO LET ANY BLAMED GHOST TAKE IT OVER! I'LL DRIVE HIM OUT OF THERE--SOMEHOW--SOMEWAY!
IN THE DAYS THAT FOLLOWED, GREGORY GATHERED ALL THE INFORMATION HE COULD ON SUPERNATURAL BEINGS!
IF I COULD SEE WHAT THE GHOST LOOKS LIKE--MAYBE TAKE A PICTURE OF HIM--THEN I'D KNOW BETTER HOW TO FIGHT HIM!
THIS CAMERA, A NEW INVENTION, HAS A SPECIAL LENS! EVEN IF THE GHOST IS INVISIBLE TO MY EYE, THE CAMERA WILL DETECT HIM!
5


SO FAR, NO GHOST! BUT SOONER OR LATER, HE'LL SHOW UP AND WHEN HE DOES, I'LL BE READY FOR HIM!
THE MINUTES PASSED SLOWLY, TENSELY, AS THE LONE HUMAN SILENTLY AWAITED THE SUPERNATURAL...
HE'LL COME IN THROUGH THE DOOR... OR MAYBE HE'LL PASS RIGHT THROUGH THE WALL!
SUDDENLY!
THAT NOISE! IT'S THE WINDOW!
IT-IT'S OPENING!
THE GHOST IS...
...ENTERING THE ROOM!
NOW!!

I COULDN'T SEE HIM! BUT AS SOON AS I DEVELOP THE PICTURE, I'LL KNOW EXACTLY WHAT HE LOOKS LIKE!
BUT, MR. GREGORY WAS DUE FOR A RUDE SHOCK...
THE GHOST DOESN'T SHOW UP IN THE PHOTO! HE'S STILL INVISIBLE!
WELL, I'M NOT BEATEN YET! ACCORDING TO ANCIENT FOLKLORE, SUPERNATURAL BEINGS CAN BE DRIVEN OFF BY CERTAIN SPELLS!
I HAVE LEARNED A CHANT WHICH IS PRACTICALLY GUARANTEED TO DISPELL UNEARTHLY SPIRITS!
THE DOOR IS OPENING! IT'S THE GHOST! ALL RIGHT, YOU WRETCHED SPIRIT... WE'LL SEE HOW YOU LIKE THESE MAGIC WORDS!
Restless wraith-- return, return!! Thunder roar and fire burn!
Now may focus the wrath of Zonn! Ghost begone! Begone! Begone!
I--I FAILED! I STILL SENSE HIS PRESENCE!
BUT I STILL HOLD OTHER WEAPONS! HOW DO YOU LIKE THESE MAGIC CARVINGS? GO AHEAD, TAKE A GOOD LOOK AT THEM, GHOST!
WHA--?!
CRASH!

CONTINUED AFTER NEXT PAGE...

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off retail prices of comparable accordions—DIRECT IMPORTER-TO-YOU!

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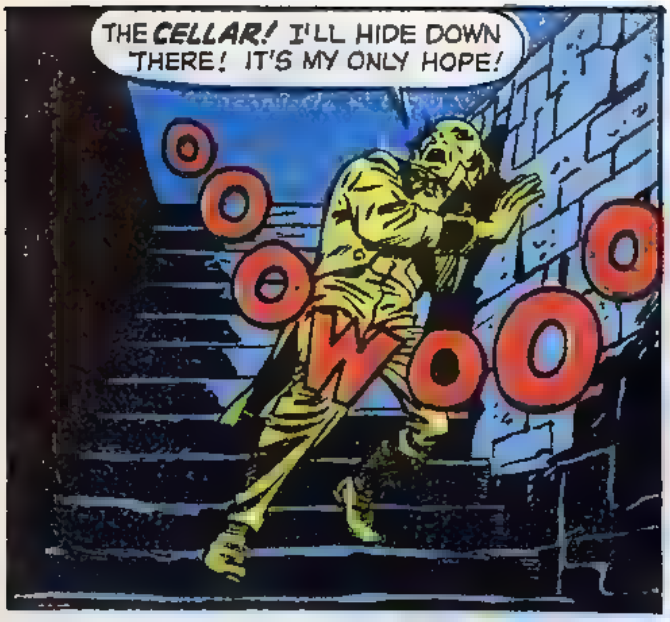
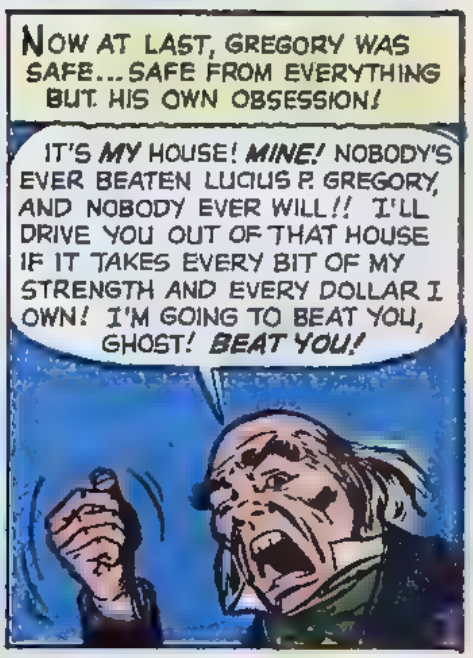
STARTLED BY THE CRASH OF THE FALLEN STATUE, GREGORY DROPPED HIS FETISHES, AND BEFORE HE COULD RETRIEVE THEM...
THEY'RE S-SLIDING ALONG THE FLOOR!
I MUST GET THEM BACK!
SLAM!
CLICK!
TOO LATE! THEY'RE LOCKED IN THE CLOSET!
YOU'VE TAKEN AWAY MY WEAPONS, BUT I'M NOT LICKED YET! THIS IS MY HOUSE! I SPENT A FORTURE BUILDING IT, AND I'M NOT GOING TO LET ANY SUPERNATURAL THING TAKE IT FROM ME! I'LL DRIVE YOU OUT OF HERE IF IT'S THE LAST THING I DO!!
YOU HAVE HAD YOUR CHANCE, MORTAL! AND NOW....
OOOWW
OOWOWOOO
THAT SOUND-- I CANNOT STAND IT! IT MAKES MY VERY SOUL SHUDDER!
I MUST GET AWAY FROM IT! I--I MUST!
OWO
OOOWOW
THE DOOR IS LOCKED! I'M TRAPPED IN HERE!!
OOWOWOOOWWOWOO
6

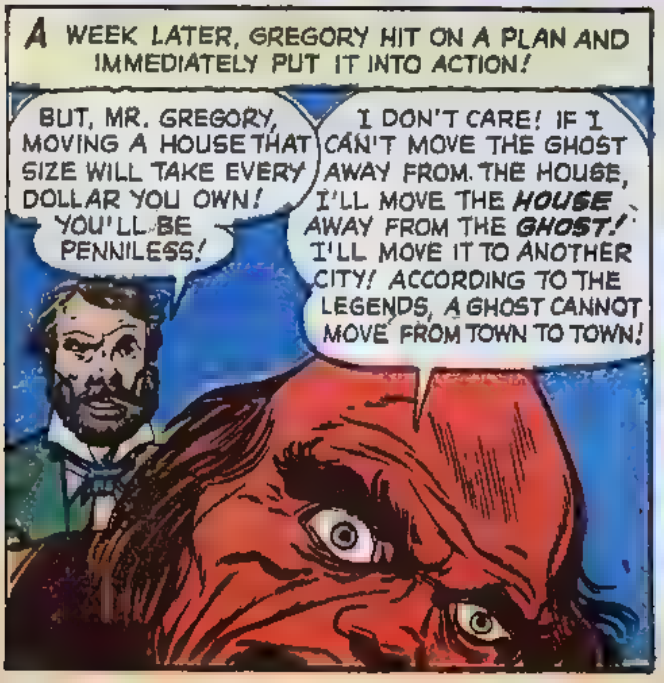

THE CELLAR! I'LL HIDE DOWN THERE! IT'S MY ONLY HOPE!
OOOWOOO

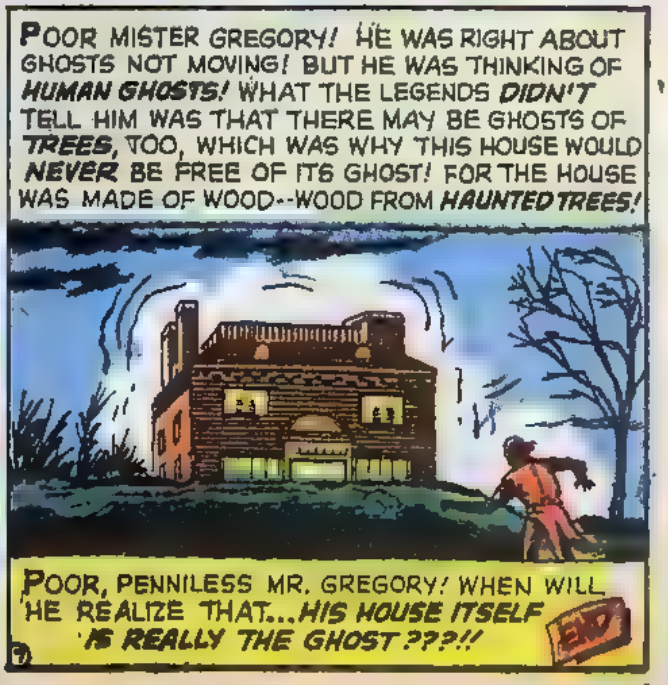
BUT THERE WAS NO ESCAPE-- FOR EVEN THOUGH THE SPINE-TINGLING SOUND WAS SILENCED-- THIS GHOST HAD OTHER POWERS!
THE FURNITURE-- EVERYTHING DOWN HERE IS MOVING TOWARD ME! IT'S GOING TO CRUSH ME! NO! NO!

I MUST ESCAPE!! MY ONLY CHANCE IS THE WINDOW!

CRASH!


NOW AT LAST, GREGORY WAS SAFE... SAFE FROM EVERYTHING BUT HIS OWN OBSESSION!
IT'S MY HOUSE! MINE! NOBODY'S EVER BEATEN LUCIUS P. GREGORY, AND NOBODY EVER WILL!! I'LL DRIVE YOU OUT OF THAT HOUSE IF IT TAKES EVERY BIT OF MY STRENGTH AND EVERY DOLLAR I OWN! I'M GOING TO BEAT YOU, GHOST! BEAT YOU!


A WEEK LATER, GREGORY HIT ON A PLAN AND IMMEDIATELY PUT IT INTO ACTION!
BUT, MR. GREGORY, MOVING A HOUSE THAT SIZE WILL TAKE EVERY DOLLAR YOU OWN! YOU'LL BE PENNILESS!
I DON'T CARE! IF I CAN'T MOVE THE GHOST AWAY FROM THE HOUSE, I'LL MOVE THE HOUSE AWAY FROM THE GHOST! I'LL MOVE IT TO ANOTHER CITY! ACCORDING TO THE LEGENDS, A GHOST CANNOT MOVE FROM TOWN TO TOWN!


POOR MISTER GREGORY! HE WAS RIGHT ABOUT GHOSTS NOT MOVING! BUT HE WAS THINKING OF HUMAN GHOSTS! WHAT THE LEGENDS DIDN'T TELL HIM WAS THAT THERE MAY BE GHOSTS OF TREES, TOO, WHICH WAS WHY THIS HOUSE WOULD NEVER BE FREE OF ITS GHOST! FOR THE HOUSE WAS MADE OF WOOD--WOOD FROM HAUNTED TREES!
POOR, PENNILESS MR. GREGORY! WHEN WILL HE REALIZE THAT... HIS HOUSE ITSELF IS REALLY THE GHOST ???!!
END

VENUS?

MONONGAHELA MUNROE was the first man on Venus. He knew it. Back on Earth, the thundering crowds that had seen his ship off on its maiden flight, had known it. He could remember the weeping, waving, girls; the strong, manly handclasps; the bunting and gay banners that surrounded ANDERSON Field on that memorable day—two weeks ago—when the *Congressman Newton* took off for Venus. But if he *was* the first man on Venus, why was his left foot caught tightly and irremovably in a late nineteenth century beartrap?

Heat and pain crowded hallucinations into his brain. He could be crazy. It might be a delusion—and yet the pain was horribly real. He lifted his head and shielding his eyes from the burning sun, he looked back over the mountainous terrain he had traveled in the past five hours. He looked down at the trap again and let a sob escape from his lips. This was stupid. He—Monongahela Monroe, explorer extraordinary, adventure-scarred veteran of hundreds of treks into the interior of darkest Europa — caught in an ancient trap, and very obviously and amateurishly contrived and set at that.

But — who would have been on the lookout for it? He fumbled in his plastic jacket for a cigarette and groaned between clenched teeth at the throb of agony the movement had brought.

He had left his ship, blaster in one hand, and recording camera clicking away at his waist. Cautiously, he had picked his way through the purple, bloated, ankle-high grass, eyes peeled for signs of animal life. The purple plain had stretched endlessly into the horizon, its sameness broken only by clumps of five or six low-foliaged, twisted trees, and by low hills of rocks.

The hills were too evenly spaced to be natural, but the two or three he had taken apart revealed nothing but the solid heap of irregular, fist-sized boulders, piled as high as Monogahela's waist.

After five miles of nothing but purple grass, twisted trees and stone haystacks, he came upon the brook. By this time the quiet had begun to unnerve him, and he found himself increasingly worried about the mysterious mound builders. Who were they? Where were they?

It was when he'd looked into the glass-clear brook that it had happened. The tiny aquatic animals, lashing heads on either ends had reminded him of the man-eating *piranhas* of darkest America, he'd smiled knowingly to himself. This was one chance that a novice might have taken, but he, of course, knew better. Oh yes! So he'd leaped the brook, and landed on the other side smack into a bear trap that sunk it's razor-sharp teeth into both his legs.

He could tell that his left leg was broken. His right leg? He wasn't sure. He coughed and flipped the cigarette into the brook. Before it reached the water one of the fish — he thought of them as fish—shot out and grabbed it in the mouth of one of its heads. Monroe twisted back in surprise — pain shooting up his thigh. But he blinked and looked again at what he saw then. The creature didn't fall back into the smooth mirrored surface of the brook. Instead eight other *fishes* leaped immediately into action, one beneath the other — like master jugglers—balancing the top one, who proceeded to blow smoke out of the other head.

Mouth open, Monongahela watched unbelievingly until the cigarette had been smoked to a half-inch butt. Then the crazy pyramid dissolved back into the water and only the smooth surface of the brook could be seen again.

Monongahela drew in a breath sharply and discovered to his surprise that he had sat down while the floor-show was on. The pain in his legs, momentarily forgotten, returned in a wave of anguish.

He fumbled in his plastic jacket and brought out a spray hypodermic. He depressed the plunger over his leg and sighed with relief as the hundred c.c.'s of pseudomorphine took hold. Thank the lord, at least he'd

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The MAGIC of MORDO!
BILL REINMAN V-416
1

IT IS WRITTEN THAT NO MAN CAN DEFY THE LAWS OF NATURE WITH IMPUNITY! THIS IS THE STORY OF ONE WHO TRIED! HIS NAME WAS FRANZ KOPNIK? HE WAS 50 YEARS OLD AND UNMARRIED.!
SOON I SHALL BE AT THE VACATION RESORT, WHERE I SHALL RELAX AND FORGET MY BUSINESS CARES FOR TWO FULL MONTHS!
FRANZ DETRAINED IN THE BAVARIAN ALPS...AND AS HE WALKED THROUGH THE SMALL MOUNTAIN VILLAGE, HE OVERHEARD A STRANGE CONVERSATION!...
MORDOO'S MAGIC CAN MAKE ANYTHING HAPPEN!
AYE, BUT I HAVE HEARD THAT THE ONE WHO REQUESTS THE MAGIC FEAT ALWAYS REGRETS IT LATER ON!
FRANZ THOUGHT NO MORE ABOUT WHAT HE HAD HEARD! HE WAS TOO EAGER TO GET TO THE RESORT AND BEGIN HIS VACATION!
THEN, AFTER HE WAS THERE BUT A FEW DAYS, HE MET A CHARMING, MIDDLE-AGED WIDOW NAMED KATRINA STEUBEN!
...AND THEN MY HUSBAND DIED, LEAVING ME ALONE IN THE WORLD!
IT'S A PITY THAT YOU NEVER REMARRIED--ALTHOUGH IN A WAY I'M GLAD! IF YOU HAD A HUSBAND NOW, WE MIGHT NEVER HAVE MET!
THE MORE TIME THEY SPENT TOGETHER, THE MORE THEY ENJOYED EACH OTHER'S COMPANY!
I HAVE NOT DANCED LIKE THIS IN YEARS! IT IS MOST PLEASANT!
YOU ARE AS LIGHT AND AS GRACEFUL AS A BIRD!
AND THEN FRANZ KOPNIK BECAME "SERIOUS!"
SHE IS CHARMING AND INTELLIGENT! I WOULD ASK HER TO MARRY ME IF ONLY SHE WERE YOUNGER! BUT I WANT A YOUNG WIFE--A GLAMOROUS ONE! NOT A MIDDLE-AGED FEMALE!
BUT ALAS, ONCE YOUTH IS GONE, IT CANNOT BE REGAINED!
BUT SUDDENLY, FRANZ REMEMBERED!...
WAIT--THOSE MEN IN THE VILLAGE--THEY SPOKE OF ONE CALLED MORDOO! THEY SAID HE HAD MAGIC SPELLS WHICH COULD ACCOMPLISH ANYTHING!
2

AT HIS NEXT OPPORTUNITY, FRANZ SPOKE TO KATRINA! HE TOLD HER OF HIS FEELINGS FOR HER AND HIS PLAN!
BUT FRANZ, NOTHING CAN MAKE A PERSON YOUNG AGAIN!
PLEASE, SAY THAT YOU'LL GO WITH ME TO MORDOO AND LET HIM TRY HIS MAGIC!
ALL RIGHT... I LOVE YOU, AND IF THAT IS THE ONLY WAY I CAN WIN YOU, I WILL GO TO MORDOO!
AND SO THEY VISITED THE STRANGE, LONELY ABODE OF THE GYPSY KNOWN AS MORDOO!
YES, I HAVE MAGICAL POWERS... BUT WHOEVER ASKS ME TO USE THOSE POWERS SHALL LIVE TO REGRET IT! SUCH IS THE CURSE OF MY MAGIC!
OH, FRANZ, I'M FRIGHTENED! LET US LEAVE NOW, BEFORE IT IS TOO LATE!
NONSENSE! THERE IS NOTHING TO FEAR! EITHER THIS GYPSY CAN MAKE YOU YOUNG, OR HE CANNOT! YOU WILL REMAIN AS YOU ARE AND YOU WILL HAVE LOST NOTHING!
YOU DO NOT UNDERSTAND MAGIC SPELLS! DO NOT ASK ME TO GO THROUGH WITH THIS!
WHAT IS THE MATTER? ARE YOU AFRAID YOUR MAGIC WILL NOT WORK?? I SHOULD HAVE KNOWN ... YOU ARE A FAKE!!
SO! NOW YOU DARE TO INSULT MORDOO?! VERY WELL, I SHALL PERFORM THE FEAT YOU ASK! BUT THE CONSEQUENCES SHALL BE ON YOUR HEAD!
OH, FRANZ, STOP HIM-- PLEASE!
QUIET! WHY SHOULD I MARRY A MIDDLE-AGED WOMAN WHEN I CAN MARRY A YOUNG-LOOKING ONE?!
THE INCENSE BURNS... LET ITS MAGIC PROPERTIES COME FORTH...
HEAR, OH SPIRITS OF THE BEYOND... LISTEN WELL TO THE PLEA OF MORDOO...

BY THE CROW'S WING AND THE LEOPARD'S TOOTH... TAKE THIS WOMAN AND GIVE HER... YOUTH!!
A-ALL OF A SUDDEN, I-- I FEEL SO STRANGE!
I--I'M BEGINNING TO LOOK YOUNGER!
THE YEARS SEEM TO BE MELTING AWAY FROM ME! IT'S UNBELIEVABLE!
YOUNGER... AND YOUNGER...
I--I FEEL NO MORE THAN 18 OR 19 YEARS OLD!!
IT IS ENDED!
LOOK, KATRINA! SEE HOW BEAUTIFUL YOU ARE!!
IT IS... BEYOND BELIEF!
OH, MY DARLING, I AM SO HAPPY! NOW YOU ARE JUST WHAT I WANTED!
STOP! LET GO OF ME!

WHY--WHY DO YOU PUSH ME AWAY? WHAT IS WRONG??
WHAT IS WRONG?? HOW CAN YOU EVEN ASK?
BUT I DO NOT UNDERSTAND! I LOVE YOU! WE ARE GOING TO BE MARRIED!
MARRIED?! DO YOU EXPECT ME TO MARRY A MAN OLD ENOUGH TO BE MY FATHER?!
KATRINA, WHAT ARE YOU SAYING?!
IT IS REALLY VERY SIMPLE! YOU ARE MIDDLE-AGED, AND I AM IN MY TEENS! PERHAPS YOU WOULD BE HAPPY MARRIED TO ME... BUT I COULD NEVER BE HAPPY WITH YOU NOW!
THE MAN I MARRY MUST BE YOUNG AND HANDSOME... LIKE MORDOO!
MORDOO??
I WARNED YOU, DID I NOT?!
YES! MORDOO!... YOUNG... STRONG! TELL ME, MY HANDSOME GYPSY, DO YOU FIND ME ATTRACTIVE?
I FIND YOU.... BEAUTIFUL!
TOO BAD, FRANZ! BUT YOU SHOULD HAVE EXPECTED IT, SHOULDN'T YOU?
AFTER ALL, IT NEVER PAYS TO WANT TOO MUCH IN A WOMAN!
SOMETIMES, THE WORST THING OF ALL CAN BE TO HAVE YOUR WISH COME TRUE!
BUT YOU KNOW THAT NOW, FRANZ, DON'T YOU? TOO BAD THAT YOU FOUND OUT, ALAS, TOO LATE!
THE END
5

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come prepared for accidents!

All sensation gone from the hips down, he was able to concentrate on his problem. Should he try to free himself from the trap and attempt to drag himself over the five miles separating him from his ship? Would it be better to wait for the setters of the trap to find him? Obviously, they had not intended to catch a human—or had they? Could they have known he was coming?

Now he was being foolish. Even if they had, how would they know he would come in this direction and step in this particular spot? Perhaps they had traps placed in hundreds of other strategic places, and this just happened to be the first he'd blundered into. Still, it seemed offhand that there were more logical ways of catching him, if that indeed had been the trapper's intention.

He bent forward awkwardly, dropping his blaster at his side, and tried to pry the jaws of the trap apart. Five minutes of straining convinced him that it was beyond his strength—at least, under his present conditions.

He leaned back, grunting, and his right hand reached for the blaster. He groped blindly for a moment, then looked down, panic-stricken. The blaster was gone!

And in its place lay the water-soaked half-inch cigarette butt!

He shrank away from it and clawed at the trap again—this was indeed madness. He had to get away, to think these things out as clearly as possible.

He screamed out into the silence of the plains. "Who are you? What do you want with me?" The sound of his voice died with a frightening suddenness, and a fish leaped out of the water spitting an echo at him.

"Whooayoo? Wadooyoowantwizme?"

Hundreds of them leaped out of the water hooking themselves together by their hooked teeth like sections in a steel rod. They formed a shape that looked like the line caricature of a man's

skeleton. A circle for a head, two swinging lashing arms, and trembling, swaying legs. The words came flowing in spine-chilling harmony.

"Whooayoo? Wadooyoowantwizme?"

Suddenly the fish all dropped back into the water. He heard the sound of a deep roar in the sky above him. It looked like—It was—an Earth ship. The second ship of the convoy that was coming out to colonize Venus. He had to send an S.O.S. before they landed or they would never find him. There had to be some way to signal them. He couldn't think of a way, and finally it was too late. The ship downed rockets and he could tell that they had landed miles away from him. He was as good as dead now. He had about decided that these fish-creatures who smoked cigarettes, and stole blasters, and echoed things he said, were the only creatures that lived on Venus. Perhaps many years ago another Earth-traveler had landed on this planet and left this trap in hope of catching some animal for food. He had probably starved to death.

Suddenly it came to him. A way he could contact that Earth-ship. He called out in his weak voice. "Help!"

The fish leaped out of the brook and called, *"Hel-up!"* Other fish from other brooks took up the cry. *"Hel-up! Hel-up!"* The sound was relayed down the strange-hills of Venus. He knew that it would get to the ship, and that they would know he was alive, and come for him. . . .

Three days later, he was starving and weak. He was about to give up all hope of being saved, when he heard footsteps behind him. He turned and saw three men dressed in Earth-clothing. Thank goodness he was saved. One of them stepped forward and smiled at him.

He said: "Mr. Monongahela Munroe, I presume.". . . .

THE END

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ONLY **99c**

THE MAN WHO LOST THE WORLD!

IT'S GOING!
... GOING!
... GONE!!
WE DID IT, PROFESSOR! YOUR MACHINE SENT THAT CHAIR INTO ANOTHER TIME!
YES, BRUNO, BUT ALAS, WE WILL NEVER KNOW INTO WHAT YEAR THE CHAIR HAS GONE! THERE IS NO WAY TO TELL WHETHER THE MACHINE SENDS THINGS INTO THE PAST, OR THE FUTURE!
WHY CAN'T WE TRAVEL IN TIME, SO WE CAN FIND OUT?
IMPOSSIBLE! THERE IS NO WAY TO BRING ANYONE BACK TO THE PRESENT AFTER THE MACHINE HAS TRANSFERRED HIM!
WELL, CLEAN THE LAB NOW, MY BOY... I'M GOING HOME!
"CLEAN THE LAB"! BAH!
I'VE HELPED HIM WITH ALL HIS WORK, AND STILL HE TREATS ME LIKE A JANITOR! HE GETS THE GLORY... AND I'M ALWAYS JUST A FLUNKY!
BUT IF I COULD FIND OUT WHETHER THE MACHINE SENDS PEOPLE INTO THE PAST, OR THE FUTURE, THEN I WOULD KNOW SOMETHING EVEN HE DOESN'T KNOW! SOMETHING NOBODY IN THE WORLD KNOWS!!

EVEN IF I NEVER RETURNED, I'D STILL BE FAMOUS AS THE FIRST MAN IN HISTORY TO TRAVEL IN TIME!!
AND I'D BE THE ONLY ONE WHO KNOWS FOR SURE IF THE MACHINE SENDS THINGS BACK, OR FORWARD IN TIME!!

I'LL DO IT! NO MORE SWEEPING UP LABS FOR ME! I'LL HAVE THE LAST LAUGH ON THE PROFESSOR! IT'LL BE ME WHO'S FAMOUS! ME! ME!

BUT WHEREVER I END UP, I'LL NEED MONEY, SO I CAN LIVE IN STYLE! AND I KNOW JUST WHERE TO GET IT!

PERFECT! THE GOLD INGOTS WHICH THE PROFESSOR USES IN HIS EXPERIMENTS! THEY'RE EVEN BETTER THAN MONEY! GOLD IS WORTH A FORTUNE ANYWHERE, ANY TIME!
AND I CAN'T BE JAILED FOR STEALING IF NO ONE IS ABLE TO FIND ME! IT'S FOOLPROOF!

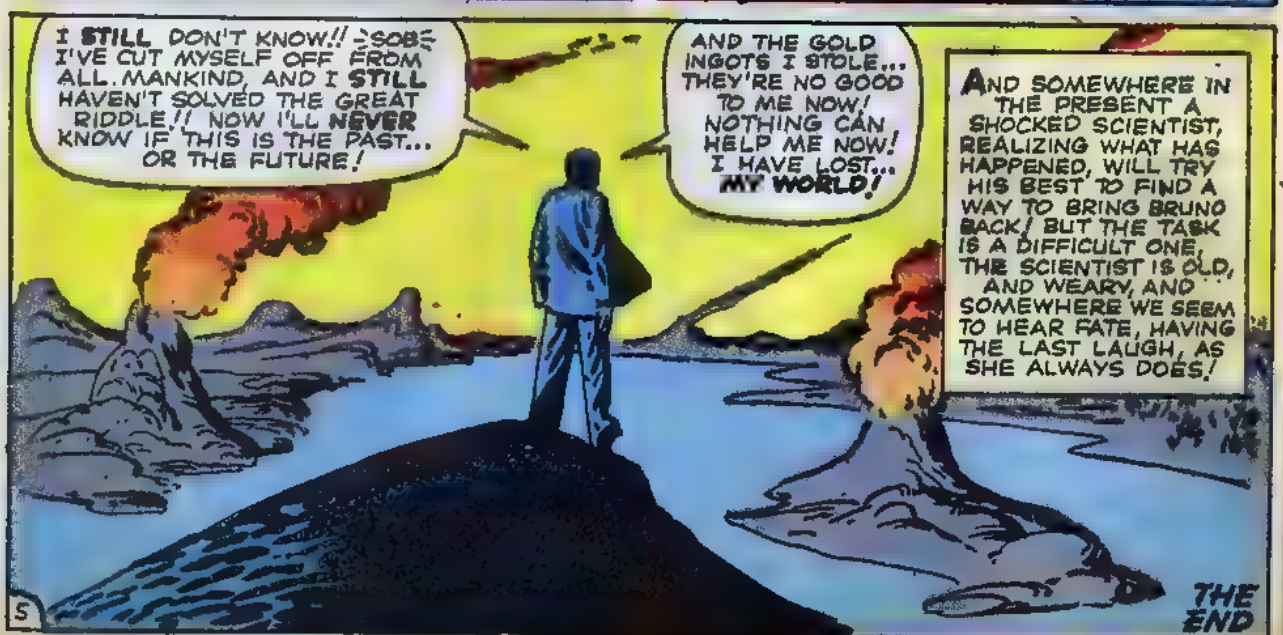
NOW I'M READY! ALL I NEED DO IS SET THE CONTROL ON "AUTOMATIC" AND STEP INSIDE THE ELECTRONIC BEAM!

TOO BAD, PROFESSOR! TOO BAD I BEAT YOU TO IT! HAH HAH!

UGH... WHAT--WHAT A STRANGE, EERIE SENSATION!
MY BODY FEELS LIGHT... WEIGHTLESS...
I'M BEGINNING TO FADE AWAY!
OHHHHHHH----
IT'S OVER! I'VE DONE IT! I'VE ACTUALLY TRAVELLED IN TIME!
BUT WHERE AM I? WHAT YEAR IS IT?

EVERYTHING IS SO PRIMITIVE... SO BLEAK!!
I MUST HAVE SET THE POWER UP TOO HIGH!
=GASP= I SEEM TO HAVE TRAVELLED RIGHT BACK TO THE DAWN OF TIME!

WHAT IF I'VE TRAVELLED THOUSANDS OF YEARS AHEAD? WHAT IF THIS IS THE WORLD OF THE FAR DISTANT FUTURE ... AFTER MAN HAS LEFT EARTH AND SETTLED ON OTHER PLANETS???


I STILL DON'T KNOW!! =SOB= I'VE CUT MYSELF OFF FROM ALL MANKIND, AND I STILL HAVEN'T SOLVED THE GREAT RIDDLE!! NOW I'LL NEVER KNOW IF THIS IS THE PAST... OR THE FUTURE!
AND THE GOLD INGOTS I STOLE... THEY'RE NO GOOD TO ME NOW! NOTHING CAN HELP ME NOW! I HAVE LOST... MY WORLD!
AND SOMEWHERE IN THE PRESENT A SHOCKED SCIENTIST, REALIZING WHAT HAS HAPPENED, WILL TRY HIS BEST TO FIND A WAY TO BRING BRUNO BACK! BUT THE TASK IS A DIFFICULT ONE, THE SCIENTIST IS OLD, AND WEARY, AND SOMEWHERE WE SEEM TO HEAR FATE, HAVING THE LAST LAUGH, AS SHE ALWAYS DOES!
5
THE END

LIKE THIS TYPE OF STORY? THEN DON'T MISS "AMAZING ADULT FANTASY" COMICS--ON SALE NOW!

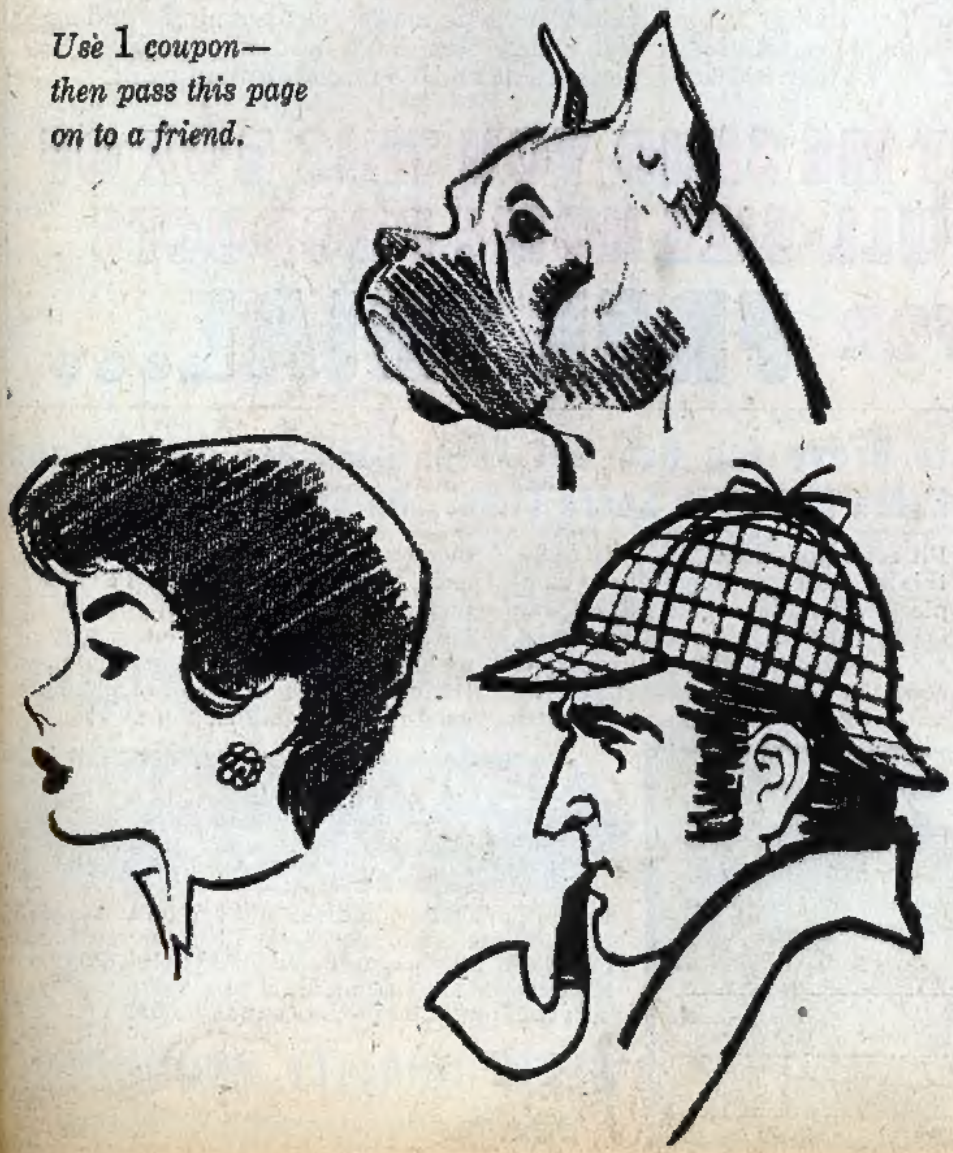
Test your talent!

Contest Prize: $495.00 Scholarship in Commercial Art

Draw your choice of any one of these heads—the boxer, the girl or the inspector. Make your drawing any size except like a tracing. Use pencil. Everyone who enters contest gets a free estimate of his talent. Winner receives the complete course in advertising art, illustrating, cartooning and painting taught by world's largest home study art school, Art Instruction, Inc.

Try for this free art course! The school is an accredited member of National Home Study Council. Students are taught, individually, by professional artists. Purpose of contest: to uncover hidden talent. Entries for January 1962 contest due by January 31. None returned. Amateurs only. Our students not eligible. Winner notified. Here's a contest you will enjoy, if you like to draw. Copy at least one of these heads and mail it to the school.

Use 1 *coupon—*
then pass this page
on to a friend.



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Studio 11941 • 500 South 4th St., Minneapolis 15, Minn.
Please enter my drawing in your draw-a-head contest.
(PLEASE PRINT)

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Occupation_____ AGE_____
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City_____ Zone_____
County_____ State_____

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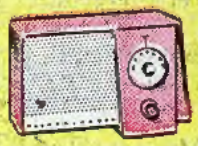
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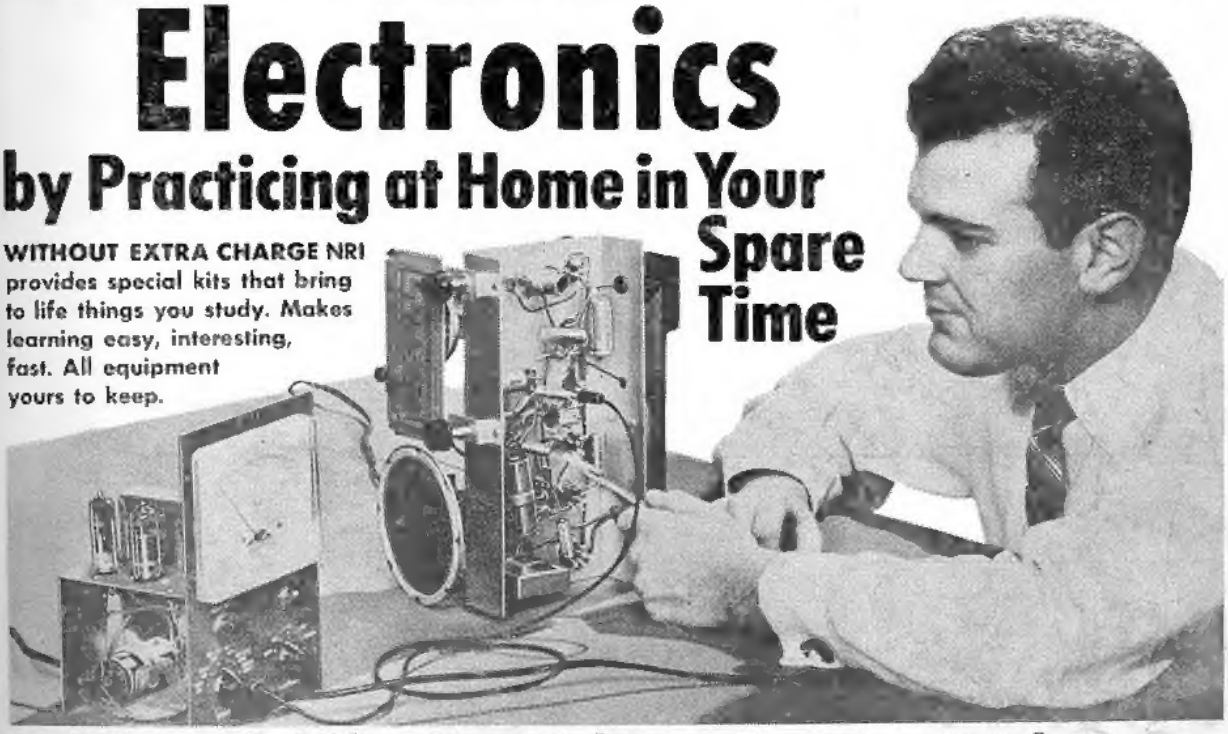

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J. M. SMITH
President

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